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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/066,559	02/06/2002	Jun Minakuti	44084-505	2622

7590 07/31/2006

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EXAMINER

HANG, VU B

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2625

DATE MAILED: 07/31/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/066,559	Applicant(s) MINAKUTI, JUN	
	Examiner Vu B. Hang	Art Unit 2625	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 January 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-6,8-12,14 and 15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2,7 and 13 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 06 February 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>02/06/2002</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Detailed Action

- This action is responsive to the following communication: Amendment filed on 01/23/2006.
- Claims 1-15 are pending in the present application. Claims 2, 7 and 13 are objected.

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 8, 10-12 and 14 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1, 3, 5-6, 8, 10 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tamura et al. (US Patent 6,806,978 B1).

4. Regarding **Claims 1, 6 and 12**, Tamura discloses a data supplier that transmit print data (see Fig.7 (110) and Col.2, Line 5-8), comprising: a connector that can be connected to a printer (see Col.2, Line 27-28); a transmitter that sends print data to the printer via the connector (see Col.5, Line 47); a lock mechanism that physically locks the connection established using the connector (see Col.2, Line 26-27); and a lock controller that maintains the lock secured by the lock mechanism (see Col.23, Line 33-47). Tamura fails to expressly disclose a lock controller that maintains the lock secured by the lock mechanism at least while communication regarding printing is being carried out with the printer. Tamura, however, teaches that the lock should be

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maintained during the engagement and communication between the data supplier and the printer in order to prevent careless detachment of the data supplier or the printer, which would cause an interruption for the data transmission process (see Col.8, Line 29-33 and Col.23, Line 33-47).

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious for one skilled in the art to include to the lock controller a lock mechanism for maintaining the lock secured by the lock mechanism at least while communication regarding printing is being carried out with the printer. The motivation for doing so would be to prevent careless detachments of the data supplier or the printer during communication. This would ensure a complete data transmission process from the data supplier to the printer so that no print data would be lost during the process.

5. Regarding **Claims 3, 8 and 14**, Tamura further discloses that the data supplier comprises a digital camera (see Col. 20, Line 29-30).
6. Regarding **Claims 5 and 10**, Tamura further discloses that the connector is connected while the housing of the data supplier and the housing of the printer are in mutual contact (see Fig.5a and Col.2, Line 25-27).
7. Claims 4, 9 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tamura et al. (US Patent 6,806,978 B1) in view of Machida (US Patent 5,559,932).
8. Regarding **Claims 4, 9 and 15**, Tamura discloses the data supplier and printer as described in Claims 1 and 6 but fails to expressly disclose that the data supplier comprises a computer. Machida, however, discloses a data supplier comprising a computer (see Col.2, Line 29-31). At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious for one skilled in the art to use a computer as the data supplier because the computer stores several types of media for printing.

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9. Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tamura et al. (US Patent 6,806,978 B1) in view of Tanaka et al. (US Patent 6,577,338 B1).

10. Regarding **Claim 11**, Tamura discloses the data supplier and printer as described in Claims 1 and 6 but fails to expressly disclose that the connector includes a cable. Tanaka, however, discloses a connector that includes a cable (see Fig.3 (23)). At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to include a cable to the connector. The motivation would be to increase the connectivity range between the data supplier and the printer.

Claim Objections

11. Claims 2, 7 and 13 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

12. Regarding **Claims 2, 7 and 13**, the following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: the prior art fail to teach or suggest a lock controller deems invalid any input that instructs that the lock state be ended so long as communication regarding printing is underway with the printer.

Conclusion

13. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period

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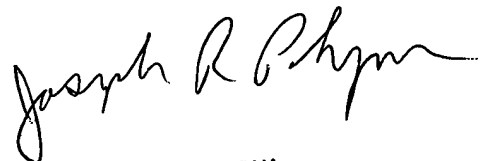
will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

14. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Vu B. Hang whose telephone number is (571) 272-0582. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 9:00am - 6:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Twyler M. Lamb can be reached on (571) 272-7406. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Vu Hang
Assistant Examiner



JOSEPH R. POKRZYWA
PRIMARY EXAMINER